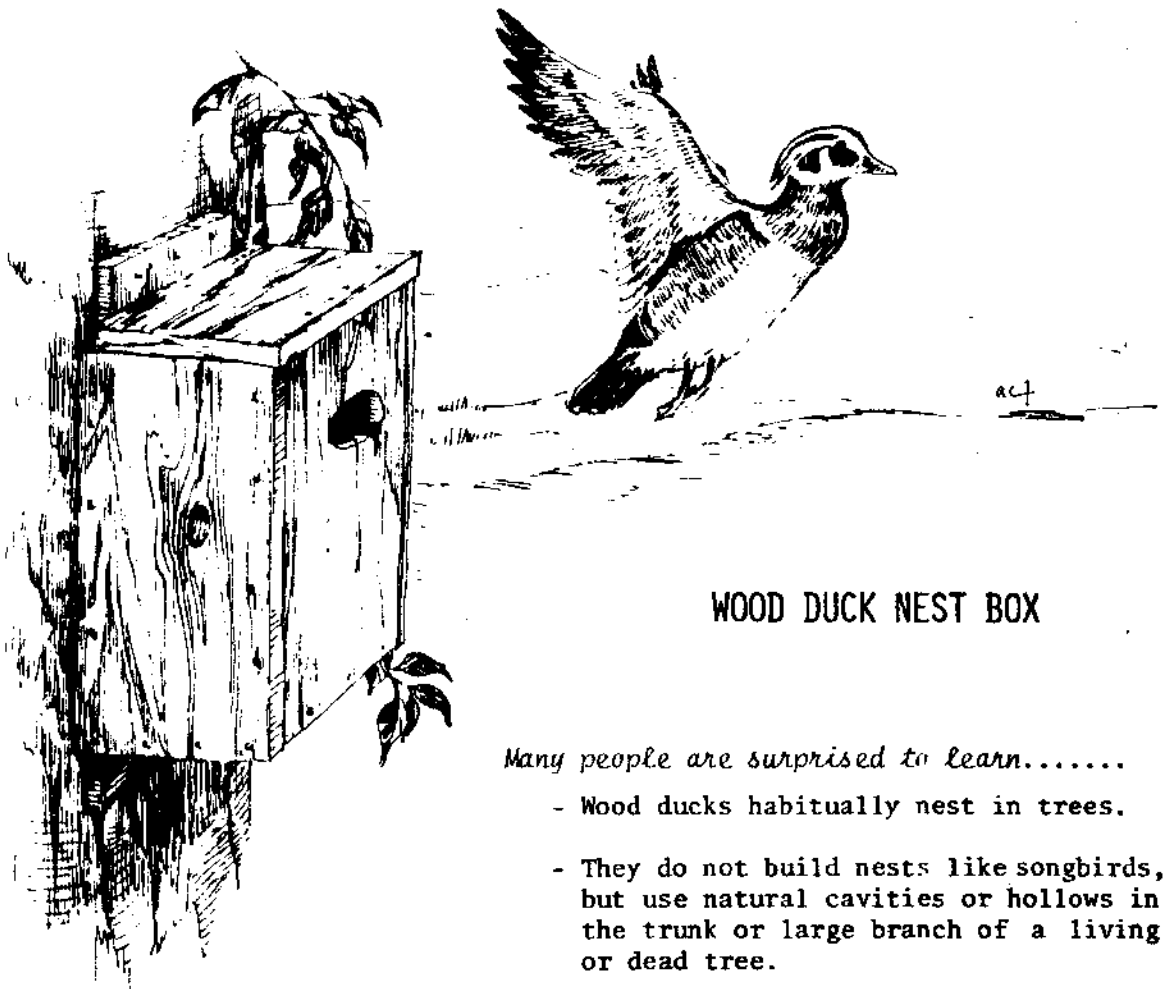


****ATTENTION****

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WOOD DUCK NEST BOX

Many people are surprised to learn.....

- Wood ducks habitually nest in trees.
- They do not build nests like songbirds, but use natural cavities or hollows in the trunk or large branch of a living or dead tree.

It takes several years for a natural cavity to develop. We can assist Mother Nature by building and installing nest boxes in a matter of a few hours.

Wood duck nest boxes have been in use for several years. They have been constructed of both wood and metal, using wooden nail kegs, discarded metal barrels, etc. However, one of the best utilized and easily constructed nest boxes is a rectangular box made of rough-sawn lumber. As they weather, they blend in with their natural surroundings.

CONSTRUCTING THE NESTBOX

The nesting box is constructed of rough-cut (unplaned) lumber, preferably cedar or redwood. If finished lumber must be used, roughen the area below the opening on the inside of the box, or attach a small piece of 1/4-inch hardware cloth in this area. This is an important consideration because this will allow the ducklings to climb out of the box when they are ready to leave the nest.

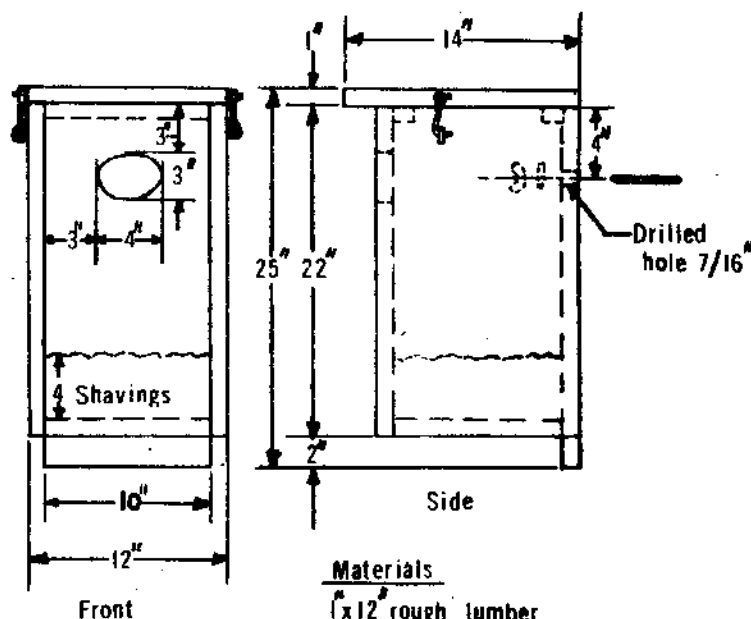
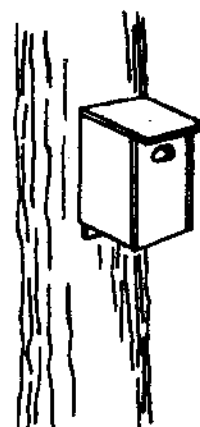
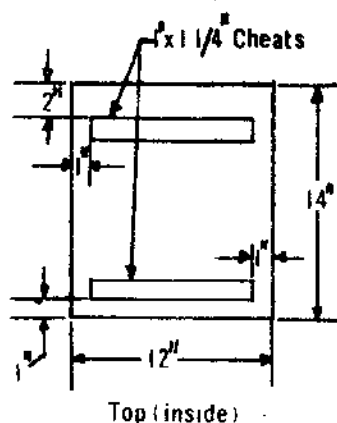
The boxes should be tightly constructed to prevent light from leaking through cracks or knotholes. The removable lid makes it easy to give the box an annual cleaning and replace the shavings. Do not paint or apply a dark coating on the outside of the box. The box should be somewhat conspicuous, yet blend in with its natural surroundings. The oval-shaped entrance hole prevents raccoons from entering the box and stealing the eggs.

INSTALLING THE NEST BOX

The best locations for nest boxes are in open stands of trees along small streams, ponds, or sloughs with slow-moving water and a stand of riparian vegetation. The box should be installed as close to the water as possible with the entrance hole facing the water. Remove any small tree branches or foliage which conceal the box from a duck sitting on the water.

Boxes installed over the water are usually more successful than those placed some distance from the water. The box should be firmly attached to a tree or snag or to a firmly placed post. Wood ducks will refuse to use loosely hanging boxes. The box should be installed in a vertical position without any backward tilt that would prevent the ducklings from climbing out.

When the box is over land, it should be placed at least 10 feet above the ground, and preferably 15 to 20 feet. If installed on a snag or post over water, the box need only be 3 to 5 feet above the water.



Materials

1 x 12 rough lumber
 3/8 x 3 1/2 hanger bolt
 3/8 wing nut and washer
 2 screen door hooks and eyes
 wood shavings as shown